

4488

CITY OF LIVERPOOL.



EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

REPORT

THE WORK OF THE

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE

FOR THE YEAR


1942

BY

W. M. FRAZER, O.B.E., M.D., Ch.B., M.Sc., D.P.H.,
Barrister-at-Law,

Medical Officer to the Education Authority

Received by the Education Committee on 24th May, 1943



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29738349>

INDEX.

	PAGE
Adenoids	21
Aural Clinics	20
Blind Children	27
Charges for Treatment	24
Children and Young Persons Act, 1933	24
Cleansing of School Children	6, 14
Deafness	20, 27
Defective Vision	21
Defective Vision—Special Classes	21
Dental Work	18, 30
Ear Diseases	20
Employment of School Children	25
Epileptics	27
Evacuation	19
Following-up	24
Higher Schools	30
Infectious Diseases	2
Inoculations	26
Juvenile Employment Bureau	30
Meals, Provision of	9
Mentally Defective Children	5
Milk Scheme	9
Minor Ailments	13
Notification of Defects	24
Nursery School	13
Nurseries (War-time)	10
Nutrition	5, 7
Open-Air Education	27
Orthopædic Scheme	22
Partially-sighted Children	27
Physically Defective Children	28
Pre-School Children (Treatment of)	22
Remand Homes	6

INDEX.

	PAGE
Scabies	5, 13
Special Schools	27
Squint	21
Staff ... ..	...5, 7, 38
Teeth	18, 30
Tonsils and Adenoids	21
Tuberculosis	25
Uncleanliness	6, 14
Verminous Children	6, 14
Vision	21
Weights	8

APPENDICES :—

“ A ”—Statistical Tables for Board of Education. Elementary Schools—	
Numbers Inspected, etc.	35
Nutrition, Classification	35
Treatment of Defects	36
Blind and Deaf Children	37
Staff	38
“ B ’—Statistical Tables for Board of Education. Higher Schools—	
Numbers Inspected	40
Nutrition, Classification	40
Treatment of Defects	41
“ C ”—Physical Training	42

STAFF.

Medical Officer to the Education Authority.

W. M. FRAZER, O.B.E., M.D., Ch.B., M.Sc., D.P.H.,
Barrister-at-Law (*Medical Officer of Health*).

Chief Assistant School Medical Officer.

R. GAMLIN, M.A., M.B., B.C., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., M.H.

Senior Assistant School Medical Officers.

G. S. ROBERTSON, M.D., L.R.C.P., ETHELWYN M. WALTERS,
L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P. & S. M.B., Ch.B.

Assistant School Medical Officers.

†A. T. BURN, M.B., B.S.
*HILDA A. CHANNON, M.B., B.S.,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
†S. V. CULLEN, M.B., Ch.B.
*ELIZABETH P. DUNCAN, M.B.,
Ch.B.
*MARJORIE GLYN-HUGHES, M.D.,
Ch.B., D.C.H.
†M. GODWIN, M.B., Ch.B.
†S. HOWARD, M.B., Ch.B.
F. P. IRVINE, M.B., Ch.B.
†B. S. JARVIS, M.B., Ch.B.,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
HELEN KEITH, M.B., Ch.B.
†J. P. KELLY, M.B., Ch.B.,
B.A.O., D.P.H.

†A. R. KENNEDY, M.B., Ch.B.,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
MARY F. LACEY, M.D., Ch.B.
GRACE E. McCONKEY, M.B.,
Ch.B., B.A.O., D.C.H.
*LILIAN W. MASSEY, M.B., Ch.B.
*SUSAN H. MONTGOMERY, M.B.,
Ch.B. (*From 2/11/42*).
*LUCY H. E. MORONEY, M.B.,
Ch.B., D.P.H.
MARGARET G. ORMISTON, M.A.,
M.B., Ch.B. (*Died 12/1/1943*).
*ANNIE A. WHITEHEAD, M.B.,
Ch.B.

Senior School Dental Officer.

T. H. PARSONS, L.D.S., R.C.S.

Whole-time Assistant School Dental Officers.

A. BREWER, L.D.S.
†L. BROMLEY, L.D.S.
E. CROSBIE, L.D.S.
†A. P. FINLAY, L.D.S., R.F.P.S.
L. A. JONES, L.D.S.
F. C. LITTLETON, L.D.S.
†J. W. MARTIN, L.D.S.

* Temporary Officers.

G. E. NEVINS, L.D.S.
†D. B. OWEN, L.D.S.
†J. E. ROBERTS, L.D.S.
J. TYSON, L.D.S.
I. WILLIAMS, L.D.S.
†L. C. WINSTANLEY, L.D.S.
J. A. WOOD, L.D.S.

† With H.M. Forces.

Part-time Assistant School Dental Officers.

J. A. BELL, L.D.S.

J. P. BLACOE, L.D.S.

H. W. MARTIN, L.D.S.

A. E. WATSON, L.D.S.

Miss C. C. SLOAN, B.D.S. (*Commenced 5/1/43*).

Part-time Specialist Officers.

D. RANKINE, M.B., Ch.B. (*Oculist*).

(*Also Oculist for Crown Street School for the Deaf.*)

JOHN A. McCANN, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S., F.R.F.P.S.
(*Oculist*). (*Resigned 15/12/42*).

COURTENAY YORKE, M.D., F.R.C.S. (*Surgeon i/c of Aural Scheme,
Aurist for Crown Street School for the Deaf*).

B. L. McFARLAND, M.D., M.Ch.(Orth.), F.R.C.S.
(*Orthopædic Surgeon*).

W. S. DIGGLE, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S. (*Orthopædic Surgeon*).
(*Resigned 18/3/42*).

F. C. DWYER, M.B., B.Ch. (*Orthopædic Surgeon*). (*From 1/5/42*).

F. HOPKINS, M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O. (*Certifying Officer for
Mentally Defectives*).

School Nurses.

Superintendent: MISS M. L. NICKSON.

Also :—53 Permanent nurses.

34 Temporary nurses.

14 Auxiliary nurses.

2 Part-time nurses.

2 Orthopædic nurses.

14 Clinic helpers.

5 Dental attendants.

Chief Clerk.

MR. F. J. GELDART.

Also :—36 Clerks.

CITY OF LIVERPOOL.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER to the Education Authority for the Year ended 31st December, 1942.

1. The Medical Officer submits, herewith, his Report on the work carried out by the School Medical Service during the year 1942.

2. Further changes in the personnel of the medical, dental and nursing staffs occurred and these are indicated in the Table shewn at the beginning of the Report.

Despite the depletion in the professional staff all the various sections of the service have been substantially maintained.

3. One aspect of the work that has, by force of circumstances, fallen seriously into arrears is that of the ascertainment of mental defectives, it now takes more than twelve months before suspected cases can be ascertained, and several months even for urgent cases requiring priority.

4. There are no signs of the scabies outbreak being mastered, some 450 new cases still being reported each week. With the full provision made for the treatment of school children at the clinics, no delay arises in securing their immediate treatment once cases have been diagnosed, and the periods of their exclusion from school have been materially reduced so that scabies as a factor contributing to bad average attendance is now comparatively negligible.

5. In the section of the report dealing with nutrition, it will be observed that, taking into consideration the average weights and

physical condition of the children, as assessed by the medical officers, there would not appear to be any falling off in their nutrition.

There are, however, indications pointing to some vitamin deficiency. These indications are:—

- (a) An increase in the number of infectious diseases reported (though the number fluctuates from year to year in normal times).
- (b) The considerable increase in the number of cases of impetigo, which was more than double that reported the previous year, as well as a very noticeable increase in the number of cases of blepharitis, conjunctivitis, and otorrhœa, which were nearly doubled.
- (c) An increase in ulcerative conditions of the children's mouths reported by the school dental officers.

6. An important investigation has been carried out with the object of discovering a really effective method of dealing with cases of verminous infestation which is still far too prevalent. The actual work was carried out in the two Remand Homes and at Belmont Road Hospital. The Medical Officer would like to record his appreciation of the co-operation of the Superintendents of the Remand Homes and the Matron of the Belmont Road Institution. The odious though necessary experiments and subsequent following-up were carried out with painstaking care by Miss Whitaker, one of the school health visitors, whose findings can be thoroughly relied upon. An account of these investigations is given on page 15.

7. The Medical Officer is indebted to the Director of Education for information supplied with regard to certain sections of this Report relating, in particular, to the work in connection with the Special Schools, Provision of Meals, and Juvenile Employment.

8. Though this Report deals primarily with the achievements of the medical, dental and nursing staffs, the fact must not be overlooked that the smooth running of the scheme is very largely dependent upon the efficiency of the clerks responsible for the various sections of the work. With the diminution of the professional staff this has become an even more important factor and the clerical staff have risen to the occasion determined to see that, so far as is in their power, they will ensure the continued success of the service responsible for the health of the school child.

9. The statistical tables required by the Board of Education concerning the work carried out appear in Appendix "A" and Appendix "B."

NUTRITION.

10. On page 35 appears Table II which gives statistics relating to the nutrition of school children who were medically inspected in the routine age groups.

This table shews that, taking all the age groups as a whole 6·83 per cent. of the children were considered to have excellent nutrition, 91·97 per cent. to have normal nutrition and 1·2 per cent. to have slightly subnormal nutrition. These figures shew all round decimal point improvement on the figures given in the previous Annual Report.

11. The following table has been prepared for the purpose of comparing the average weights of children for the year 1942 with those appertaining at the outbreak of the war in 1939. These comparative figures shew quite an appreciable all-round improvement, with the curious exception of the girls and boys of the ages of 8 and 12 attending schools in the better-class neighbourhoods. A quite feasible explanation is the fact that during the war period very few of the children attended the Committee's Dining Centres and the schools which they attended were late on in the programme for equipping them with school canteens.

TABLE I.

General Inference of Weights in 1942 compared with the outbreak of War.

Neighbourhood.	Sex.	Age 5.	Age 8.	Age 12.
		Difference of Weight in Pounds.		
COMBINED ... (Good, Fair and Poor)	Boys ...	+ 1·9	+ 0·2	No change
	Girls ...	+ 0·6	+ 1·1	+ 1·1
GOOD ...	Boys ...	+ 0·4	− 1·8	− 1·7
	Girls ...	+ 0·9	− 1·4	− 1·5
FAIR ...	Boys ...	+ 0·9	+ 3·3	+ 2·0
	Girls ...	+ 1·3	+ 2·2	+ 1·7
POOR ...	Boys ...	+ 0·2	+ 0·9	+ 1·1
	Girls ...	+ 0·9	+ 1·5	+ 3·3

12. The general impression of the school medical officers is that the war has produced little, if any, harmful effect on the nutrition of the children, and they are unanimous about the beneficial effects of the meals and milk schemes. In one central school it was noticed that absenteeism through illness had been almost negligible amongst those children who had partaken of the school meals and milk; whilst in the few cases of subnutrition discovered it was invariably those children who disliked milk. On the other hand, the school medical officers have made the following adverse comments:—

- (a) Where the mothers are working, the burden of caring for the family often falls heavily on the older schoolgirls, who appear languid, manifest bad posture and complain of vague limb pains—signs and symptoms indicative of fatigue.
- (b) In the case of some of the older children, whose fathers are in the Services and whose mothers are working, their behaviour and lack of discipline is objectionable.
- (c) There appears to be an increase in the number of minor ailments, especially impetigo.

(d) Late hours are more prevalent, especially in the poorer districts, and the resulting fatigue aggravates the tremendous amount of backwardness already caused by the loss of schooling which occurred earlier in the war.

PROVISION OF MEALS AND MILK.

13. Dinners were provided for elementary school children daily except Sundays and Christmas Day.

During the year the output of two-course dinners for school children, supplied from the Central Kitchen and four auxiliary kitchens, has gradually increased. In addition, meals have been supplied from the new electrically-equipped kitchen in Gateacre. Arrangements have also been made for school meals to be provided from two British Restaurants and four Ministry of Food Cooking Depots.

In spite of the difficulty of obtaining supplies of equipment and fittings, 54 additional school canteens and dining centres were opened during the year. At the end of the year there were 76 school canteens and dining centres in operation.

The total number of dinners, free or on payment, supplied during the year was 1,734,151.

The number of individual children who were provided with dinners has increased from 3,980 in January, 1942, to over 13,650 in December, 1942.

These numbers at various dates were as follows:—

	February, 1942.	May, 1942.	October, 1942.
No. of children present in school	69,662	75,958	84,478
Free meals.....	1,601	1,769	2,563
On full or part payment	4,013	4,350	7,768
Total No. of children supplied	5,614	6,119	10,331
Percentage of children in school receiving dinners	8.05%	8.05%	12.12%

(At the time of writing this Report in February, 1943, the percentage of children receiving school dinners had increased up to 17%).

The total number of free milk meals supplied during the year was 1,949,285.

The number of individual children who received free milk increased from 8,538 in January, 1942, to 10,059 in December, 1942.

The numbers of children receiving milk at various dates during the year were as follows:—

	February, 1942.	May, 1942.	October, 1942.
Free— $\frac{1}{3}$ pint	8,340	8,257	9,110
Free— $\frac{2}{3}$ pint or more	426	487	565
On payment— $\frac{1}{3}$ pint	50,779	34,800	39,798
On payment— $\frac{2}{3}$ pint or more	2,344	23,556	25,137
Total No. of children	61,889	67,100	74,610
Percentage of children in school receiving milk	88·8%	88·3%	88·31%

Whilst the number of children present in school on the days selected increased from 69,662 in February, 1942, to 84,478 in October, 1942 (an increase of 21 per cent.) the percentage of children receiving milk has been maintained at 88 per cent.

WAR-TIME NURSERIES.

14. The scheme of war-time nurseries includes the provision of full-time and residential nurseries administered by the Health Department, and part-time nurseries and nursery classes under the Education Committee. The Education Authority by the end of the year had opened 12 nursery classes in the Infants' Departments of the Elementary Schools for children between the ages of 2 and 5 years. and this number is to be increased within the next few months. In addition to school accommodation, two pre-fabricated huts have been issued by the Ministry of Health. Each hut will provide two nursery classes each for 30 children.

15. In the early days of War-time Nurseries, the 100 per cent. grant from the Ministry of Health was obtained only for war-time nurseries under the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority. In order to qualify for the full grant, the Liverpool Education Authority decided to place school accommodation suitable for nurseries at the disposal of the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority. The first part-time nurseries were, therefore, controlled by both the Education Authority and Maternity and Child Welfare Authority, and a joint Sub-Committee consisting of members of the Hospitals, Education and Maternity and Child Welfare Committees was set up to deal with all matters relating to their establishment and maintenance. Later, the Ministry of Health extended the 100 per cent. grant to War-time Nursery Classes, and it was then decided that for the future any additional provision made by the Education Committee should be designated War-time Nursery Classes. The Ministry of Health did not wish entirely to hand over to the Board of Education those nurseries which began as part-time ones. Consequently, although these part-time nurseries are administered by the Education Committee, and the medical care of the children, excepting for Immunisation, is in the hands of the school medical officer, the Ministry still regards them as "part-time nurseries," and maintains an interest in them, an arrangement which is somewhat confusing.

16. Part-time nurseries and nursery classes are open during hours to suit the convenience of women doing essential war work, and for the purpose of releasing other women to do such work, whose children are eligible for admission. Originally, it was intended that the hours should be similar to those of nursery schools, namely, from 8-30 a.m. until 5 p.m. Later, at the request of the Ministry of Labour, the hours were extended and the position at present is that the nursery classes will be opened and closed at hours to meet the needs of the mothers.

17. The staff of each nursery class comprises a teacher who is in charge, a member of the Child Care Reserve, or nursery-trained nurse, and a probationer, with correspondingly larger staff when a twelve-hour day is in operation.

18. Specially planned nursery meals are cooked at one of the Education Committee's Kitchens, and carried to the nurseries by P.A.C. transport.

19. The School Medical Department is responsible for the medical arrangements made for these part-time nurseries and classes, with the exception of immunisation against diphtheria, which is carried out by the Maternity and Child Welfare Department's assistant medical officers. Whenever a new class is opened a medical officer carries out a routine examination of all entrants and subsequently each child is examined at three-monthly intervals. As far as the nursing supervision is concerned the district school health visitors call at each nursery class daily to supervise the work of the nursery assistants and give any necessary advice. All the School Medical Department's treatment schemes were made available for these children, including treatment at the minor ailments clinics.

The doctors all agree that there is a noticeable improvement in the children's behaviour and health after regular attendance at these nurseries, and they attribute the improvement in health largely to the well-balanced meals and regular rest periods, and their improvement in behaviour to the skilled supervision of the staff and the association with other children. In those classes where the ferrous sulphate tablets have been supplied marked improvement has been noticed in the children to whom they have been administered.

One of the doctors was of the opinion that rickets was more common than before and this is perhaps not surprising in view of the ignorance, apathy, or indifference shown by the large numbers of parents who fail to take advantage of the Ministry's provision of vitamin preparations including cod liver oil and orange juice.

One difficulty which is being experienced is the dirty condition in which some of the children arrive and their unsuitable type of clothing, the parents' excuse for which is often given as being attributable to a shortage of clothing coupons.

EVERTON ROAD NURSERY SCHOOL.

20. The average number of children on the roll for the year was 150. When applications exceed accommodation preference is given to those children whose mothers are engaged in war work.

The children were kept under medical supervision and provided with dental treatment, as also, when necessary, with minor ailments, orthopaedic and eye treatment at the adjoining clinics. The health of the children is regarded as being well up to that of children admitted in previous years.

The most common defects discovered at the routine inspections were septic tonsils, squint, rickets and bronchitis.

MINOR AILMENTS.

21. During the year, 32,970 cases were treated at the Minor Ailments Clinics, necessitating 296,072 attendances having to be made by the children, the average number of attendances being 9·0 per child.

22. The number of cases reported as ringworm of the scalp was 9, compared with 24 during the previous year. Of these, 6 were treated by X-rays at the Belmont Road Hospital and 3 otherwise.

23. The number of cases of impetigo treated at the Minor Ailments Clinics throughout the year was more than double the number during the previous year, and the number of cases of blepharitis, conjunctivitis and otorrhœa were nearly doubled.

24. Scabies continued on the increase, 14,925 new cases amongst school children being reported. By the end of the year the weekly average of new cases diagnosed was approximately 450. All contacts were followed-up and as a result 2,711 pre-school children and 2,049 adults were diagnosed as suffering from scabies and were treated at the special clinics.

For the treatment of scabies there were available 11 centres, equipped with 34 baths. A total of 41 health visitors, temporary nurses and auxiliaries were engaged whole-time upon this work.

The medicament now being used in the treatment of scabies is the B.P. benzyl benzoate emulsion, which gives results equivalent with the spirit soap and lotions formerly used.

The school medical officers attended regularly at the clinics to supervise the treatment and, in this connection, carried out over 42,000 examinations.

UNCLEANLINESS AND NEGLECT.

25. The school nurses made 431,068 examinations of school children with regard to cleanliness, and altogether 34,052 children were found to show some evidence of verminous infection or were very dirty. In the case of 1,480 children, statutory notices were served upon the parents owing to their failure to cleanse their children after previous notification, and 1,076 children had to be compulsorily cleansed by the staff.

The total number of attendances made at the cleansing stations during the year was 20,889, of which number 20,831 were on account of verminous conditions.

The School Health Visitors are of the opinion that the condition of those children, who, before the war were found constantly to be unclean or verminous, is now worse. Their mothers were amongst the first to secure employment, even when they had large families and very young children. Despite the fact of their now increased family income these children are also worse clad than formerly, the excuse for this condition being given as shortage of coupons and lack of time to give attention to their children's clothing.

In the case of the children of the poor, though more responsible parents, even though their mothers are working, their improved financial circumstances has resulted in their children being better clad and shod, clean and altogether giving the impression of being well cared for.

26. The School Attendance Department have co-operated with the School Medical Department in investigating cases of neglect referred

to them. In particular they have assisted in securing the regular attendance of school children at the scabies clinics.

Mr. Bridson, the Superintendent of the School Attendance and Care Department, states that—

“36 cases have been before the Court during the period 1st January, 1942, to 31st January, 1943. Of this number proceedings were instituted in six cases on the ground that the children, who were suffering from scabies, had not been provided with adequate medical treatment, and were, therefore, neglected. In two cases fines of 20s. and 40s. were imposed. In a further two cases parents were bound over for twelve months, and in two instances proceedings were withdrawn, as the children had attended the clinic for treatment and had received a clearance note, following the serving of the summons.

“In 29 cases the parents were summoned for neglecting their children (general). The children, in eight of these cases, were suffering from sores and were verminous. Proceedings resulted as follows: In six cases fines of £2 to £5 were imposed. Seven parents were bound over for twelve months, and sentences of imprisonment, ranging from fourteen days to six months hard labour, were imposed in thirteen instances. One case was adjourned *sine die*; a mother was placed on probation for one year; and one case was withdrawn.”

INVESTIGATION INTO THE EFFICACY OF LETHANE.

27. It has always been the experience of those who have to deal with lousy children, that in a week or two after treatment they have again been found to be infested, and the cause for this was invariably attributed to home re-infestation. There is good reason, however, to think that this is by no means the only important factor.

When the Liverpool Camp School at Colomendy was opened, all the children were examined and, where necessary, cleansed before being admitted, after which the nurses at the school gave a weekly combing with a steel nit-comb to all the children. But, despite these precautions, and the sending down on more than one occasion of especially experienced nurses with instructions not to leave the school until they were satisfied that every child was clean, many of these same

children, a week or so later, were again reported to be infested. These experienced nurses noted that the lice they were finding were very small (obviously larvae). It thus became clear that the difficulty of keeping children in a residential school clean was attributable to the fact that, despite the most careful combing, some nits or larvae, or both, were sometimes left behind, and that the generally accepted method of treatment by washing and combing was not altogether efficient.

As the new Thiocyanate preparations had been strongly advocated for dealing with verminous conditions, it was hoped that they would be effective in destroying all the nits.

Since many remedies in the past had unjustifiably been proclaimed as specifics for the purpose required, it was decided that stringent tests should be applied before accepting the efficacy of these newly-advocated remedies.

It was not considered advisable at the outset to carry out the tests at the cleansing stations because of the difficulty of getting the children concerned to attend regularly for observation, as and when required, apart from the likelihood of the complication of home re-infestation arising. It was decided that the verminous cases admitted into the Remand Home and City Hospitals would be more suitable, since they often remained in residence for sufficient time for the necessary periodic observations to be made.

28. A number of experiments were tried with Lethane and Lauryl Thiocyanate, though the majority were made with the former. Both of these preparations were found to be very effective in killing lice, but not for killing nits. In using these preparations, it had been advocated that the hair should not be brushed or combed, as this would dilute the original concentration which was required to prevent re-infestation and to kill the nits or larvae which might subsequently hatch.

In some series of experiments, periodic combings were made for test purposes, and it might be thought that the failure to kill nits which was noted in a number of the cases was due to this combing

partly removing, and thus lessening the concentration of the preparation, but this suggestion was disproved when similar failures were obtained when no combing was resorted to.

It was found that these preparations cannot be relied upon as preventative for more than a day or so, and it was thought possible that their loss of potency might be due to the volatility of the lethal factor. That there is such a volatile factor was shewn by the fact that lice placed in vessels, at the bottom of which were a few drops of lethane from which the lice were effectively prevented from coming into contact, always died within an hour or less.

It became clear, therefore, that these new remedies would only completely cleanse if several applications were made after suitable intervals. Thus the first application should kill all the live lice and a second application, say in a week, would kill any lice which had hatched since the first application, and a third application at the end of another week should ensure a complete eradication of any further larvae which might possibly have hatched. Such a prolonged procedure would only be practical for hospital in-patients and inmates of other residential institutions. Used in this manner, these thiocyanates are probably the most effective remedy yet discovered.

This method, unfortunately, is not practicable for dealing with children at the cleansing stations where the cleansing must be completed at one visit. Had these thiocyanate preparations proved themselves to be as effective as ovicides as they were as insecticides, they would have been most valuable preparations for effectively combating the problem of verminous infestation.

As the thiocyanate preparations cannot be relied upon for complete disinfestation at one process because of its unreliability for destroying nits, what is required is some medicament, which after one application, will devitalise all nits. With this object in view, some further experiments were tried.

One experiment was based upon the supposition that lethane gave off a volatile lethal substance. The cases were treated in the way advocated but after the application of the lethane, the scalp and hair

were enclosed in a bathing cap for one hour. The purpose of the bathing cap was to concentrate the vapour evolved and increase its volatilisation by raising the temperature. While by this modification all lice were killed, it still failed to kill the nits.

29. The following experiment was then tried: One hour prior to treating with lethane the hair was impregnated with a 2 per cent. solution of lysol. This procedure gave much more promising results, the failures being less than 10 per cent. as compared with 35 per cent. when lethane alone was used. The number of cases so treated was 250.

This was as far as the experiments had proceeded by the end of the year 1942. The investigation was continued during 1943 and is still proceeding at the time of writing this Report, and as there are indications of distinct progress having been made the 1943 experiments are being included. Since the lysol-lethane treatment shewed better results than either alone, it was then decided to try whether the destructive effect of *hot* lysol upon the nits would be still more effective. A 2 per cent. solution was used at a temperature of 104° F., which, for practical purposes, can be estimated as being that which can be borne by the tip of the elbow. The procedure adopted in the first 25 cases was to first of all wash the hair, then saturate it with the two per cent. hot lysol solution, leave for one hour and then apply the lethane preparation. Later a further 75 cases similarly treated with hot lysol and lethane but the preliminary washing was omitted. All these 100 cases were kept under regular supervision and complete success achieved.

The experiment was then tried of omitting the one hour's wait after the application of the lysol so as to shorten the time required in treatment.

The procedure adopted was as follows:—The hair was first of all thoroughly impregnated with the hot lysol solution, partly dried, then at once combed to remove lice and nits, after which the lethane preparation was applied. The average time taken for so treating a girl's hair was about 45 minutes. So far 91 cases have been treated by this method and no failures recorded.

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.

30. The following Table shews the work carried out under the dental scheme for children attending the Public Elementary Schools;—

	1940	1941	1942
Number of children examined in school	36,190	37,739	49,152
Number of children requiring treatment	30,040 (83·0%)	29,691 (78·6%)	37,897 (77·1%)
Number of cases accepting treatment under the Dental Scheme	18,172 (60·4%)	16,128 (54·6%)	22,262 (58·7%)
Number of cases treated	15,816	14,830	19,317
Number of schools concerned	68	115	120

Two more Dental Officers, Mr. Owen and Mr. Finlay, were called up with the Armed Forces during the year, making a total of 6 thus serving.

Efforts to obtain additional temporary assistance were made throughout the year, but the demands of the Services have resulted in a shortage of dental surgeons in private practice, and the problem of recruiting clinic assistance has proved a difficult one.

Although there have been no further requests from reception areas for assistance, the authorities in these areas have not yet found it possible to release any of the 3 seconded Dental Officers. At the end of the year, therefore, the total Dental Staff available in Liverpool was the equivalent of approximately 8 whole-time officers as compared with 10 in 1941 and 15 before the war.

Under these circumstances it is satisfactory to note that a larger number of children than in the preceding year were actually treated. This was, in a large measure, due to the very much improved standard of attendance amongst children summoned to the clinics.

The arrangement whereby Mr. Tyson, whose services have been loaned to the Flintshire Authority, also carried out the inspection and treatment of the children at the Colomendy Camp School was continued. Mr. Tyson has found it possible to arrange to visit this school twice a year for routine treatment, and he is able to report that, as a consequence, the standard of dental fitness of these children is very high.

31. There has been an increase in the incidence of ulcerative mouth conditions in children, and there were some cases of Vincent's disease or "Trench Mouth." This disease, which may be considered to be a

local infection predisposed to by vitamin deficiency, attained alarming proportions in some areas during the last war. The Senior School Dental Officer, therefore, sought the advice of Professor H. H. Stones and Army Dental Authorities, and as a result a scheme of treatment was arranged. This treatment consists of a local application of chromic acid to the affected areas followed by an immediate flooding with hydrogen peroxide, the effect of which is to carry the drug deeper into the tissues with the bubbles of oxygen which are released. This process is carried out daily, whilst the parent is, at the same time, advised as to diet, segregation of the child and, in severe cases, the addition of Vitamin C concentrates to the diet. All cases have yielded well to this treatment.

EAR, NOSE AND THROAT CONDITIONS.

32. The Aural Clinics have been functioning regularly throughout the year and attendances have been satisfactory.

The following Table gives the types and numbers of cases treated at these clinics:—

TABLE 2.
Aural Clinics.

Number of children who attended for examination and treatment 1,098
Total number of attendances at the clinics 5,226

Defect.	Total.	Dry or Healed.	Im- proved.	No treatment given.	Still under treatment.	Failed to complete treatment.	Referred to Hospital or own Doctor.	Referred to M.A.C.
Acute Otitis Media	129	80	—	9	17	17	6	—
Suppurating Otitis Media	286	136	—	18	45	71	10	3
Chronic Suppurating Otitis Media	217	29	5	—	84	70	27	1
Deafness without Otorrhœa	99	—	36	19	6	22	1	—
Otalgia and other conditions	97	28	23	15	8	16	3	4
Nasal Defects	270	6	68	45	29	91	18	13
TOTALS	1,098	279	132	106	189	287	65	21

66 Minor operations were also performed at these clinics for the removal of polypi, etc.

33. At the routine examinations of the public elementary school children, the number found to require treatment for unhealthy tonsils or adenoids was 525, which represents a percentage of 1·6 of the children examined.

Apart from the cases discovered at the routine examinations, 140 other children were found to require treatment for one or both of these conditions. In cases where the school medical officers were uncertain whether or not to recommend operative treatment, they were referred to the clinic for the opinion of the specialist. Out of 665 of such cases Mr. Yorke advised an operation in 386 of them.

Arrangements were made for tonsils and adenoids operations to be carried out at the Alder Hey Children's Hospital, but owing to difficulty of obtaining beds, only 254 were treated during the twelve months. At the end of the year additional arrangements had been made with Broadgreen Hospital to operate upon up to 10 cases per week.

The operations were as follows:—

Tonsils only	...	...	42
Adenoids only	...	...	10
Tonsils and Adenoids	...	...	202
			—
TOTAL ...	...	...	254
			==

The children were admitted on the day prior to operations and discharged two or three days after their treatment.

DEFECTIVE VISION.

34. The number of children with some defects of vision found at the routine examinations of the second and third age groups was 2,861 (13·8 per cent.), but only 1,210 of these (5·8 per cent.) required treatment. Amongst the entrants 542 were suspected of having defective vision, 460 of whom showed evidence of squint. In addition to the cases found amongst the children in the routine age groups, 625 were seen as special cases.

The number of new cases treated under the Committee's scheme was 1,501. The number re-examined at the clinics was 2,408. These numbers do not represent the total number of clinic attendances, since many children with amblyopia received intensive treatment, attending weekly, or oftener, over extended periods.

Under the arrangements made with the Hospitals and Port Health Committee for the treatment of squint in pre-school children, 132 children were examined by the oculist and glasses were provided in 120 of these cases.

ORTHOPÆDIC SCHEME.

35. Although in some cases, difficulty has been encountered in obtaining regular attendance for treatment owing to the mothers being at work, the attendances at the orthopædic clinics have continued to increase, the total attendances for the year showing an increase of more than 2,000 over those of the previous year.

There were 1,143 children under supervision, 566 of these being new cases, of which number 218 were seen at the Walton Clinic, 243 at the Everton Road Clinic, and 105 at the Dingle House Clinic. Altogether these children made 10,973 attendances, either for examination by the surgeon or for massage or exercises, the average number of attendances per case for massage or remedial exercises being 14·7.

Arrangements were made for 26 cases to be admitted to hospital whilst 16 cases were referred to hospital for X-ray examination.

The following is a summary of the treatment carried out at the hospitals on the cases referred from the clinics:—

Summary of Hospital Treatment, 1942.

Correction of deformities of feet or toes	....	....	10
Tenotomies or stretching	....	....	5
Osteotomies	....	....	1
Treatment of torticollis by operation	....	....	1
Treatment of spinal defects	....	....	3
Amputations	....	....	3
Other treatment	....	....	3
			<hr/>
			26
			<hr/>

36. The Child Welfare Association assisted the parents in obtaining new apparatus, surgically altered boots, repairs, etc., in 848 instances, whilst 273 pairs of boots for wearing with apparatus were supplied. The Association likewise assisted the work by supplying cod liver oil and arranging for convalescent treatment. The Association's visitors also undertook the following-up of cases, 561 visits being made for this purpose.

The accompanying table shews, in detail, the work carried out at the clinics:—

TABLE 3.

Cases dealt with under the Orthopaedic Scheme during 1942.

Defect	Cases seen at Surgeons' Visits.				Massage and Remedial Exercises Department.													
	No. of Cases		No. of Attendances		No. of Cases.			No. of Attendances.										
	Clinic		Clinic		Clinic.		Clinic.											
	Dingle House	Walton	Everton Road	TOTAL.	Dingle House.	Walton.	Everton Road.	TOTAL.										
Infantile Paralysis	5	9	18	32	10	16	41	67	32	10	17	5	17	23	31	41	253	325
Birth Palsy ...	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	4	1	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	28	30
Spastic Paralysis	15	11	20	46	32	21	43	96	9	8	15	8	15	32	157	170	290	617
Rickets ...	48	42	57	147	90	69	96	255	14	5	4	5	4	23	263	38	50	351
Talipes ...	3	8	11	22	4	12	22	38	—	3	5	3	5	8	—	104	39	143
Spinal Curvature	13	10	12	35	25	14	20	59	12	9	9	9	9	30	248	210	121	579
Torticollis ...	4	4	5	13	10	9	9	28	3	2	3	2	3	8	46	5	34	85
Flat Feet ...	121	174	199	494	225	283	328	836	68	109	121	109	121	298	1021	1654	1407	4082
Other deformities	24	48	31	103	46	92	48	186	8	25	15	25	15	48	137	278	177	592
Other defects ...	53	89	96	238	89	160	222	471	31	58	45	58	45	134	537	1049	533	2119
No orthopædic defect found ...	—	4	6	10	—	4	6	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	287	400	456	1143	532	681	837	2050	147	224	235	224	235	606	2442	3549	2932	8923

NOTIFICATION OF DEFECTS AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR FOLLOWING-UP.

37. The percentage of parents attending at the examinations of their children as entrants, second age group, and leavers were 81·5 per cent., 54·8 per cent., and 19·9 per cent., respectively. The percentage for other ages was 30·6 per cent.

In connection with the following-up of cases and in arranging appointments for treatment, 43,785 notices were sent from the office to parents.

PARENTS' PAYMENTS.

38. The charges made by the Committee for the various forms of treatment provided in Liverpool remain as stated in the 1938 Report.

The following amounts were received during the year 1942 as parental contributions towards the cost of the treatment indicated:—

						£	s.	d.
Defective vision...	...	...	...	...	...	1,007	15	4
Dental defects ...	...	...	...	...	...	695	16	11
Tonsils and adenoids ...	...	...	...	...	...	146	4	0
Ringworm of the scalp	...	...	...	...	...	0	17	6
TOTAL...						£1,850	13	9

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS ACT.

39. In accordance with the arrangements made under Section 35 of the Children and Young Persons Act (1933), medical reports, for the information of the Magistrates in the Juvenile Courts at Liverpool and district and in certain reception areas, were submitted in 2,392 cases.

During the year, 186 cases were specially examined at the request of the Magistrates and 57 of these, in which a report upon the mental condition had been requested, were seen by Dr. G. Stuart Robertson, Dr. F. P. Irvine or Dr. S. Howard, School Medical Officers who had been approved as Certifying Officers, and a further 3 cases were examined by Dr. F. Hopkins. The remaining cases were examined by the medical officers to the Remand Homes.

EMPLOYMENT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

40. During the year a total of 3,063 children (3,009 boys and 54 girls) were employed. The school medical officers examined 664 children as to their fitness to undertake work before school hours and in 9 cases certificates were refused on medical grounds.

During the year the Sub-Committee, dealing with the licensing of children, granted 11 theatrical licences.

TUBERCULOSIS.

41. At the routine inspections in the schools there were discovered 11 cases of tuberculous glands, and 24 cases of other forms of tuberculosis, a total of 35 cases, or .10 per cent., among the routine cases examined.

There were also seen at the inspection clinics, or as special cases at the schools, 12 definite or suspected pulmonary cases, and 10 cases of other forms of tuberculosis.

The number of cases discovered at the routine examinations is less than that discovered in 1941, though the numbers themselves afford no true comparison, but the incidence rate does shew a reduction from .18 per cent. to .10 per cent.

All the cases of actual or suspected tuberculosis discovered by the school medical officers were referred to the tuberculosis officers for examination. The number of references so made was 56, whilst the Tuberculosis Department supplied information with reference to 578 school children who had been reported from other sources as possible cases of tuberculosis. Of these, 302 were new cases for the year and 218 were reported as non-tuberculous.

42. Dr. Clarke, the Chief Clinical Tuberculosis Officer, states:—

“ The Tuberculosis Officers report that the general progress of children under observation has been good and nutrition well maintained despite rationing, though it is noted that progress has undoubtedly been better amongst the children who have been evacuated to the country.

“ A steady improvement in the physical condition of the school child has been observable for some time past, and this is no doubt attributable in great part to the provision of meals and milk in the schools. There does not appear to have been any noticeable increase in tuberculosis amongst the children in Liverpool during the past year, and it is interesting to note that following an initial rise, after the outbreak of war, the number of deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis in children under 15 years of age is now falling again, but on the other hand, the number of deaths from non-pulmonary tuberculosis, which largely affects children, shews a slower tendency to decline despite stricter milk supervision, etc.

“ With the advent of Mass Radiography as an aid to diagnosis it is hoped in time to be able to detect pulmonary tuberculosis when present in the child at a very early stage and before symptoms develop, thus greatly enhancing the chances of cure.”

INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN SCHOOLS.

43. The number of cases of infectious disease reported amongst children of school age during the year was 5,770, this being an increase of 765 cases over the previous year. The greatest increases were reported in the cases of measles (566 cases) and scarlet fever (327 cases), while diphtheria showed an increase of 218 cases. There was a reduction of 494 in the number of cases of whooping cough reported.

It was not necessary to close any school or department during the year on account of infectious disease.

44. The arrangements made in previous years for the inoculation against diphtheria of the children attending the infants' departments of the elementary schools were extended to cover all departments and also to include secondary schools. For this purpose visits were paid to 100 elementary schools and departments, and to two secondary schools. The total number of school children inoculated at the elementary schools was 7,771, and at the secondary schools 408. In addition, a considerable number of children of school age were inoculated at the various immunisation clinics held throughout the city.

SPECIAL SCHOOLS.

45. The total number of children at the end of the year who had been certified as blind was 32, of whom 22 were attending Wavertree School for the Blind, 7 the Roman Catholic School for the Blind, Brunswick Road, and 3 Sunshine Homes.

46. Classes for partially-sighted children were held in the following Centres: Christ Church C.E. School, Grant Road Council School, Underlea Day Open-Air School and Fazakerley Day Open-Air School. The number on the rolls at these classes at the end of the year was 54.

47. Those deaf children who were receiving education at the Crown Street School, where a group of Special School children were also in attendance, were transferred during the year to the premises in Queensland Street formerly occupied by the Special School for Senior Boys. At the end of the year this group numbered 66.

In addition, nearly 100 deaf children were in residence, under the Government Evacuation Scheme, at the school established in Birkdale.

48. Three new cases of epilepsy were admitted to the Home for Epileptics, Maghull, and altogether the Local Authority maintained 10 such children at this Home during 1942.

49. The Authority have not, at the present time, any residential provision of their own for delicate children, although they continue to make use of their 36 places at Torpenhow Open-Air School, and 3 beds at the West Kirby Convalescent Home. A certain number of delicate children have also been admitted to the evacuated residential special schools.

At the end of the year there were 262 children on the rolls of the three following day open-air schools: Fazakerley, Underlea and Margaret Beavan.

50. During 1942, 105 children were admitted to Alder Hey Hospital School and 63 were on the rolls at the end of the year. At the three schools in the reception areas which are being conducted as special residential schools for "crippled children," there is accommodation

for 144 children and at the end of the year 132 were in attendance. Tyndwr Hall is for boys only, Edward Malam for girls, and Nant-y-coed accommodates mostly heart cases of both sexes. The Head Teachers of these schools in their reports again stress the conspicuous improvement in the health of the children, and draw attention to some well-marked increases in height and weight and the children's freedom from acute illnesses. The children have evidenced also distinctive educational and social progress.

51. The "crippled children" who remained in Liverpool numbered 362 at the year's end and they were being educated at three schools, Crown Street, Major Lester and Margaret Beavan.

52. The accompanying return shows the results of the examinations made by the Certifying Officers of children referred for admission to schools for physically defective children:—

Certified for Day Open-Air Schools	...	...	...	...	...	108
Certified for Day Special P.D. Schools	...	...	...	...	...	77
Certified for Residential P.D. Schools	...	...	...	...	...	109
Certified for Epileptic Schools	...	...	...	...	...	3
Postponed for further trial in elementary schools or for treatment	...	...	...	...	...	74
Unsuitable for any school	...	...	...	...	...	23
Referred for Mental examination	...	...	...	...	...	23
To remain in elementary school	...	...	...	...	...	36
Total						453

53. Apart from the schools in the reception areas, the Authority has no residential provision for feeble-minded children, but during the year 31 children were maintained in the following schools: Pont-ville Roman Catholic Special School (20), Allerton Priory Roman Catholic Special School (10), and Dovecot Horticultural School for Girls (1). Two special schools in the reception area are being run as residential schools for feeble-minded children. The one at White Heather, Old Colwyn, accommodates the girls and younger boys, whilst that at Crookhey Hall, near Lancaster, is for the older boys. The Head Teachers at these schools have been much impressed with the children's improvement in health, education and character formation.

There were 351 feeble-minded children attending the Richmond and Crown Street Day Special Schools and the special classes which were arranged for at Major Lester, Banks Road, Grant Road, Underlea and Fazakerley Schools.

54. The results of examinations made by the Certifying Officers of children referred for ascertainment of their mental capacity is as follows:—

Certified for Special Day School	...	...	...	...	...	177
Certified for Special Residential School	...	...	...	...	...	13
Postponed for further trial in ordinary school or for treatment					...	58
Notified to L.M.H.B.	...	...	...	...	...	83
To remain in elementary schools	...	...	...	...	...	147
Total						<u>418</u>

55. The routine medical examinations and the general medical care of the special school children in the reception areas is carried out by local medical practitioners, whilst specialist and dental treatment is provided either under the Local Authorities' arrangements or, in a few instances, by special arrangements made in the reception areas.

All the medical and dental facilities of the School Medical Department are available for the special school children in Liverpool, and the numbers of medical examinations carried out by school medical officers were:—

Routine examinations	...	...	...	...	...	596
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	307
Special inspections	...	...	...	...	...	41
TOTAL						<u>944</u>

Under the Committee's schemes, 50 cases of defective vision were treated. In addition, 2 children were operated on for tonsils and adenoids, 12 were treated at the aural clinics, and in the case of children suffering from crippling defects, full use was made of the facilities available at the orthopædic clinics.

56. The following Table shews the work carried out by the dental staff of the School Medical Department at the Special Schools.

Dental Treatment at Special Schools.

Number of inspection sessions	....	....	....	....	10
Number of treatment sessions	....	....	....	....	33
Total number of sessions	....	....	....	....	43
Number of children inspected	....	....	....	....	720
Number of children requiring treatment	....	....	....	....	484 (67·2%)
Number of children treated	....	....	....	....	227
Number of attendances made for treatment	....	....	....	....	236
Number of teeth extracted	....	....	....	....	620
Number of teeth filled	....	....	....	....	20
Number of other operations	....	....	....	....	11
Number of administrations of general anaesthetics	....	....	....	....	218

HIGHER SCHOOLS.

57. The arrangements for the medical examination, following-up and treatment remain the same as reported in the 1938 Report.

The number of schools visited during the year was 25, and the numbers of medical inspections carried out were as follows:—

Routine cases...	...	...	...	6,739
Re-inspections	...	...	...	24
Special cases ...	...	...	...	79

The number of routine cases having defects for which they were referred for treatment was 552 (8·2 per cent.), some of these having multiple defects. Defects of the nose and throat were noted in 334 (4·9 per cent.), ear disease in 171 (2·5 per cent.) and organic heart disease in 64 (0·9 per cent.) of the children.

JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT BUREAU.

58. The absence of any serious enemy activity against the City during the period has enabled the Bureau to discharge, on normal lines, its duty of advising boys and girls on the choice of a suitable career and of placing them in employment. The close and cordial relations with employers, head teachers, juveniles and their parents, which had been somewhat interrupted by heavy raiding during the preceding year, were renewed, and it can, without hesitation, be stated that the services rendered in this manner have been greatly appreciated by

all sections of the community. Some evidence of this close co-operation may be gathered from the fact that, notwithstanding the reduced juvenile population in the Liverpool area, only on one occasion has the number of vacancies filled during the year been exceeded.

59. Despite a depleted staff, it was considered most desirable to continue the practice of holding School Conferences at various Central, Technical and Elementary Schools in the City. In order to obviate any loss of working time the practice was adopted of submitting workers to employers—whose needs had previously been ascertained by visitation—just prior to the end of each school term. By this method many juveniles who had attained 14 years of age were able to commence duties on the day immediately following their withdrawal from school.

60. Many juveniles renewed their registrations during the year, in some cases on several occasions after short periods of employment. There can be little doubt, however, that the provisions of the Essential Work Orders have proved effective in making for more stability in certain employments, thus resulting in the reduction of the number of applicants mentioned above. In the case of girls, home duties, arising from the extensive employment of married women, have probably kept a number outside the employment field.

61. Many of the openings in the distributive trades and in clerical and commercial work, did not make much appeal to boys except to those with definite desires in these directions and, consequently, a great number of such vacancies could not be filled by the Bureau service. There was a dearth of trade vacancies, especially in the Building Industry and, to a lesser extent, in Engineering, so that boys, tired of waiting for such openings, had perforce to accept alternative employment, whilst other youths, chiefly aged 16-17 years, who became redundant to building labouring work, property repairing, etc., remained unemployed for varying periods rather than accept other work at a reduced wage. However, as the prospect of work in connection with air-raid damage diminished, most youths realised the improbability of re-engagement and reluctantly turned their thoughts in other directions for work less highly paid.

62. The position regarding girls was rather different. Openings were always available of the normal type and applications were never at any time sufficient to meet all labour demands, although vacancies were not concentrated to any appreciable extent in a particular industry. The Concentration of Production Order was put into operation for certain local manufacturing firms, chiefly affecting girls, and little difficulty was experienced in their replacement; on the contrary, the few boys affected were not readily replaced and all those displaced had not been re-employed up to the end of the year, some three or four weeks after their withdrawal.

63. Although many enquiries were made by boys regarding training for engineering, seafaring or agricultural work, it was not possible to satisfy their wishes to any appreciable extent, except perhaps so far as farm work was concerned. In that connection, close co-operation was maintained with the Y.M.C.A. and from the many boys submitted for their approval a number were accepted and admitted to one or other of the Association's Farm Training Hostels; others were transferred to farm work under the Ministry of Labour and National Service scheme. The Gravesend Sea School accepted two trainees at the beginning of the year, but from then onwards many applicants for training suffered keen disappointment as the school continued full recruitment being made slowly for a long waiting list. There was a similar falling off in recruitment to the Government Training Centres about September, 1941. Up to that time an appreciable number of boys had been submitted for the approval of the Ministry of Labour and National Service and the majority had been admitted to Training Centres, but later recruitment was discouraged owing to placing difficulties, except in the case of trainees who were willing to enter employment necessitating living away from home.

64. In the Higher Education Section of the Bureau, visits were made to the local Secondary Schools. During the year, particularly in the summer months, there was a marked diminution in the demand for the services of Secondary School boys, and those nearing the age of 18 years experienced considerable difficulty in securing suitable employment owing to their early liability for National Service. This

state of affairs was of short duration, except as far as youths nearly 18 years were concerned, and at the end of the summer vacation most midsummer leavers had been absorbed into employment. As, however, there was always a steady and sometimes unsatisfied demand for Secondary School girls as clerks and shorthand-typists, it is probable that employers were engaging girls in order to obviate the difficulties arising from the recruitment of youths nearing military age. This practice was also borne out by employers, when requiring male employees, stipulating that only youths aged 16-16½ years should be submitted. It cannot be said, however, that unemployment in this class of applicant was ever extensive or of long duration.

65. Interviews with boys and girls and, in many cases, their parents, in connection with temporary Civil Service posts, were numerous. Many such vacancies were filled by the Bureau and, whilst on occasions, openings of this kind were more numerous than applicants, it was found necessary towards the end of the year to keep a waiting list of suitable applicants for local appointments due to the absence of immediate vacancies.

66. In September, 1941, the Higher Education (Technical) Committee established a day Secretarial Course for girls of secondary education at the City of Liverpool College of Commerce. For many years it has been considered that such a course was desirable and the results so far have amply justified that view for, without exception, all girls taking the course were speedily placed, by co-operation with this section of the Bureau, in highly-remunerative posts offering the prospect of a good career.

67. The operations of the various Essential Work Orders necessitated considerable work at the Bureau, inasmuch as, before a National Service Officer gives a decision in the case of a juvenile, consultation takes place with the Juvenile Employment Officer.

68. The clerical duties arising from interviewing young people under the Registration of Boys and Girls Order, 1941, were allocated to the Juvenile Employment Bureau. Two officers were detailed for this work, assisted by additional staff, and this new feature of the Committee's activities has proceeded smoothly.

69. In conclusion, it may be stated that, as far as juvenile labour conditions are concerned, the year has been relatively uneventful and the demand for boys restricted and lacking in variety. In no particular industry was there any shortage of juvenile workers for an appreciable period. A marked feature of the year, due doubtless to conditions arising from the War, was that applicants appeared to fall into two well-defined categories, viz., the majority consisting of school-leavers from most of the elementary, technical, central and secondary schools—boys who were keen to settle down to their work and form a career for themselves, handicapped only by a dearth of trade apprenticeships, seagoing employment, professional careers and other forms of progressive work. The other category, comprising the minority, were boys of a definitely lower standard, fitted only for unskilled industrial work, and lacking in discipline and outlook. Such youths shewed a total disregard for the future and were anxious only to earn high wages immediately, irrespective of the type of work to be carried out or its ultimate bearing on their lives. While this second group forms only a small percentage of the whole, the time and effort occupied in dealing with them in an endeavour to effect an improved outlook is very considerable and, moreover, these difficult youths are often the most persistent in their attendance at the Bureau. It is feared that while the lack of discipline persists in the home these young people will continue to present a serious problem to the Bureau officers who are constantly on the look-out for some means of utilising their services in the national interests. In this connection it is hoped that the calling-up for National Service of men in the younger age groups will result in further openings for unskilled workers that can be filled by older boys.

70. The greater variety of openings for girls and the heavier demand for female labour has almost entirely removed the problem of the unemployed girl and, except at the end of the school term, there are seldom many who cannot readily be absorbed into useful remunerative employment without undue delay.

W. M. FRAZER,

*Medical Officer to the
Education Authority.*

Appendix A.**BOARD OF EDUCATION.****MEDICAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT
RETURNS, YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1942.****TABLE I.****MEDICAL INSPECTIONS OF CHILDREN ATTENDING
PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.****A.—Routine Medical Inspections.**

NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS IN THE PRESCRIBED GROUPS :—

Entrants	...	...	...	...	...	...	13,612
Second Age Group	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,802
Third Age Group	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,229
Other Ages	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,682
Total							<u>34,325</u>

B.—Other Inspections.NUMBER OF SPECIAL INSPECTIONS AND RE-INSPECTIONS... *134,671

* This figure includes 32,252 inspections of Scabies cases.

TABLE II.CLASSIFICATION OF THE NUTRITION OF CHILDREN INSPECTED DURING THE YEAR
IN THE ROUTINE AGE GROUPS.

Number of Children Inspected.	A. (Excellent).		B. (Normal).		C. (Slightly subnormal).		D. (Bad).	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
34,325	2,345	6·83	31,568	91·97	411	1·20	1	—

TABLE III.

Group I.—Treatment of Minor Ailments (Excluding Uncleanliness, for which see Table V).

TOTAL NUMBER OF DEFECTS TREATED OR UNDER TREATMENT DURING THE YEAR UNDER THE AUTHORITY'S SCHEME, *47,905.

* This figure includes 14,925 Scabies cases.

Group II.—Treatment of Defective Vision and Squint (excluding Minor Eye Defects treated as Minor Ailments, Group I).

	No. of Defects dealt with under the Authority's Scheme.
ERRORS OF REFRACTION (including squint)	3,909
Other defect or disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I)	8
Total	3,917
<hr/>	
No. of Children for whom spectacles were :	
(a) Prescribed	2,922
(b) Obtained	2,856

Group III.—Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat.

NUMBER OF DEFECTS.		
Received Operative Treatment under the Authority's Scheme, or Clinic or Hospital. (1)	Received other forms of Treatment. (2)	Total number treated. (3)
254	—	254

TABLE IV.**DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.**

1) Number of Children Inspected :—			
(a) Routine Age groups	.....		45,325
(b) Specials	.....		3,827
(c) Total (Routines and Specials)	.....		49,152
(2) Number found to require treatment	.....		37,897
(3) Number actually treated	.....		19,317
(4) Attendances made by children for treatment	.....		28,508
(5) Half-days devoted to	{ Inspection	411 }	Total ... 4,279
	{ *Treatment	3,868 }	
* Includes 1,501 sessions in which a Dental Officer acted as Anæsthetist.			
(6) Fillings :—	{ Permanent Teeth	5,139 }	Total ... 5,139
	{ Temporary Teeth	— }	
(7) Extractions :—	{ Permanent Teeth	14,776 }	Total ... 59,681
	{ Temporary Teeth	44,905 }	
(8) Administrations of general anæsthetic for extractions	.....		19,595
(9) Other Operations :—	{ Permanent Teeth	1,003 }	Total ... 1,003
	{ Temporary Teeth	— }	

TABLE V.**VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.**

(1) Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses or other authorised persons	57·3
(2) Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses	431,068
(3) Number of individual children found unclean.....	34,052
(4) Number of individual children cleansed under the Liverpool Corporation Act	20,789
(5) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken :—	
(a) Under the Education Act, 1921	Nil
(b) Under School Attendance Bye-laws.....	Nil

TABLE VI.**BLIND AND DEAF CHILDREN.**

	(1) At a Public Elementary School.	(2) At an Institution other than a Special School.	(3) At no School or Institution.	(4) Total not receiving suitable Education.
Blind Children ...	—	—	—	—
Deaf Children ...	—	—	—	—

TABLE VII.
SCHOOL MEDICAL AND DENTAL STAFF, LIVERPOOL
on 31st December, 1942.

Name of Officer.	Permanent or Temporary.	Proportion of time devoted to	
		School Medical Service.	Public Health.
School Medical Officer. Dr. W. M. Frazer (also M.O.H.)	Permanent	Not assessable	Whole- time.
Chief Assistant S.M.O. Dr. R. Gamlin	„	Whole-time	Nil
Senior Assistant S.M.O. Dr. G. S. Robertson	„	„	„
Assistant S.M.O.s. Dr. Ethelwyn M. Walters	„	„	„
Dr. Margt. G. Ormiston (Died 12/1/43)	„	„	„
Dr. Helen Keith	„	„	„
Dr. Mary F. Lacey	„	„	„
Dr. Grace E. McConkey	„	„	„
Dr. F. P. Irvine	„	„	„
Dr. Lucy H. E. Moroney	Temporary	„	„
Dr. Marjorie Glyn-Hughes.....	„	„	„
Dr. Elizabeth P. Duncan	„	„	„
Dr. Annie A. Whitehead	„	„	„
Dr. Lilian W. Massey (Mrs. Hughes)	„	„	„
Dr. Hilda A. Channon	„	„	„
Dr. Susan H. Montgomery	„	„	„
NOTE.—The seven male Assistant S.M.Os. who have been called up for service in H.M. Forces are not included above.			
Senior School Dental Officer. Mr. T. H. Parsons	Permanent	Whole-time	Two dentists devote approximately one session per week each to the treatment of ante- and post-natal cases for the Public Health Department (M. & C. W.).
Assistant School Dental Officers. Mr. F. C. Littleton	„	„	
Mr. A. Brewer	„	„	
Mr. G. E. Nevins.	„	„	
Mr. E. Crosbie	„	„	
Mr. I. Williams	„	„	
Mr. J. A. Bell	} Temporary part-time	6	
Mr. J. P. Blacoe		6	
Mr. H. W. Martin		5	
Mr. A. E. Watson		3	
Miss C. C. Sloan (Commenced 5/1/43)		2	

SCHOOL NURSING STAFF on 31st December, 1942.

(Excluding Specialist Nurses such as Orthopaedic Nurses).

	Number of Officers.	Aggregate of time given to S.M.S. work in terms of whole-time officers.
School Nurses	54 Permanent 34 Temporary	88
District Nurses	Nil	Nil
Nursing Assistants	16 Temporary (2 are half-time)	15
Dental Attendants	5	5

SCHOOL MEDICAL DEPARTMENT,
LIVERPOOL.

Appendix B.

MEDICAL INSPECTION RETURNS.

TABLE I.

**MEDICAL INSPECTION OF CHILDREN ATTENDING
HIGHER SCHOOLS.**

A.—Routine Medical Inspections.

NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS IN THE PRESCRIBED GROUPS—

Age.							Boys.	Girls.	TOTAL.
8 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	61	70	131
9 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	88	56	144
10 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	112	61	173
11 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	343	277	620
12 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	598	632	1,230
13 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	663	536	1,199
14 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	845	515	1,360
15 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	746	431	1,177
16 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	252	228	480
17 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	114	111	225
TOTAL							3,822	2,917	6,739

B.—Other Inspections.

NUMBER OF SPECIAL INSPECTIONS AND RE-INSPECTIONS 103

HIGHER SCHOOLS.

TABLE II.

**Classification of the Nutrition of Children Inspected during the
Year in the Routine Age Groups.**

Age-groups.	Number of Children Inspected.	A. (Excellent).		B. (Normal).		C. (Slightly subnormal).		D. (Bad).	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
All Routine Inspections	6,739	1,204	17·9	5,526	82·0	9	0·1	—	—

TABLE III.

Group I.—Treatment of Minor Ailments (Excluding Uncleanliness, for which see Table V).

TOTAL NUMBER OF DEFECTS TREATED OR UNDER TREATMENT DURING THE YEAR
UNDER THE AUTHORITY'S SCHEME, 17.

Group II.—Treatment of Defective Vision and Squint (Excluding Minor Eye Defects treated as Minor Ailments—Group I).

	Number of Defects dealt with.		
	Under the Authority's Scheme.	Otherwise.	Total.
ERRORS OF REFRACTION (including squint).....	398	80	478
Other defect or disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I).....	—	—	—
Total	398	80	478

	Under the Authority's Scheme.	Otherwise.	Total.
Number of children for whom spectacles were			
(a) Prescribed	272	80	352
(b) Obtained	267	80	347

Group III.—Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat.

NUMBER OF DEFECTS.

Received Operative Treatment.		Received other forms of Treatment. (3)	Total number treated. (4)
Under the Authority's Scheme, in Clinic or Hospital. (1)	By Private Practitioner or Hospital, apart from the Authority's Scheme. (2)		
3	—	—	3

Appendix C.

REPORT BY THE INSPECTOR OF PHYSICAL TRAINING FOR THE YEAR, 1942.

Notable progress in the development of physical training activities in the elementary schools of Liverpool was possible during the year 1942, helped largely by the fact that there was no further damage due to enemy action. There were, however, severe handicaps inseparable from war-time conditions to be overcome—the absence of all the younger men teachers on service with H.M. Forces, the dispersal of many other teachers to Reception Areas, and the requisitioning of school premises (and playing fields) for civil defence and other services.

Physical Exercises.

The children in the elementary schools of Liverpool have received systematic, progressive and regular training in physical exercises in accordance with the Board of Education syllabus throughout the school year. The average time devoted to syllabus work in all departments other than infants is 84·5 minutes each week.

The facilities for physical exercise vary very widely in extent and value. While 11 senior elementary schools which have been erected in recent years possess fully-equipped gymnasias, and over 30 schools have halls with portable apparatus, the majority of the older schools in congested areas lack adequate accommodation for the rational development of physical training. It must be stated, however, that some of the best efforts—and results—in the teaching of physical exercises are seen in schools where conditions are far from ideal; this is a tribute to the skill and energy of the teachers.

Organised Games.

An increasing number of school departments resumed their organised games in school playing fields and public parks during school hours, although a considerable proportion of the playing areas available in normal times were under cultivation or used for other emergency war-time purposes. Over 30 schools organised individual school athletic meetings.

To enable children from the densely-populated areas to take part in organised games, the Education Committee authorised the issue of tram tickets to cover the transport of scholars from some 30 schools or departments to and from the 15 playing fields during school hours.

School Holiday Camps.

In spite of difficulties caused by problems of accommodation and food rationing, four schools found it possible to submit proposals for conducting holiday camps in the summer of 1942. Grants in aid, at the weekly rate of 15s. for each leader and 10s. for each scholar, were authorised by the Elementary Education Sub-Committee in respect of the following schools:—

Barlows Lane (1 leader, 18 boys), at Rainford, Lanes.

Rathbone (2 leaders, 40 boys), at Dyserth, North Wales.

St. Bridget's R.C. (5 leaders, 100 scholars), at Dyserth.

St. Sylvester's R.C. (1 leader, 20 boys), at Heswall, Cheshire.

The Committee also made a block grant of approximately £180 to the Liverpool Child Welfare Association (at the rate of 10s. per scholar each week) to assist the Association in their scheme for sending poor children to three holiday homes in North Wales, during the summer months of 1942.

Swimming Instruction.

Facilities for schools' swimming practice at public baths during school hours were provided by the Liverpool Corporation Baths Committee to the fullest extent possible, though these facilities were naturally limited by the conservation of fuel supplies, by repairs to damaged buildings and interference with water and heating apparatus. The depleted staffs at the baths establishments also necessitated a reduction in the hours of opening.

A comparison with the bathing activities in (say) 1939, would not, of course, show the 1942 season in a favourable light, but it is interesting to record the progress made in 1942 compared with the preceding year. The figures attending the public baths in 1942 were 154,619 as compared with 99,869 during 1941.

Classes for Teachers.

Two courses of instruction, each consisting of eight lessons, for women leaders of recreative physical training, were conducted by expert gymnastic teachers at the beginning of the year, and were well attended by a number of day-school teachers. The lessons included individual instruction and training in teaching recreative exercises; skipping, ball work, and indoor and outdoor games.

Teachers in evening institutes and clubs also gained much valuable experience from attendance at the courses.

The Committee's Inspector of Evening Schools (Mr. J. Morris) submits the following brief statement on physical training activities in:—

Evening Institutes and Youth Organisations.

Physical training and dancing (folk-dancing, country dancing and ballroom dancing) have attracted large numbers of juveniles of both sexes belonging to the Social and Recreative Sections of the Evening Institutes. In all, during the session 1942-43, there were 33 of these Club Sections and, in each, physical training and dancing were two of the most popular activities.

Physical training has also been a very popular activity in voluntary Youth Organisations. During the early part of the session there was considerable difficulty in obtaining blacked-out halls and gymnasia for the clubs applying for physical training classes. Gradually this difficulty has been overcome and a great many Youth Organisations have been enabled, by the assistance of the Education Committee, to provide classes in this subject. In fact, practically every Youth Organisation, to the number of (approximately) 200, is providing some form of physical training for its members. In addition to the above, all Pre-service Units—Air Training Corps, National Cadets, Civil Defence Cadets, Sea Cadets, Girls' Training Corps, and the new Junior Girls' Cadet Corps, require their members to attend classes in physical training.

Thus a relatively very high proportion of juveniles of the 14-20 age group is taking part in one form or other of "keep fit" activities.

Evening Play Centres.

Prior to the outbreak of war in 1939, sixteen evening play centres were maintained during the winter months (October—March inclusive). These normally met from 5-30 to 7-30 o'clock on two evenings weekly, and provided a wide range of recreative and semi-educational activities for children from nine to fourteen years of age. During the session 1938-39, an average attendance of over 7,000 children was recorded. A varying number of summer play centres were held in school playgrounds each year, in the charge of teachers and other qualified games leaders. This scheme was fairly successful in keeping a number of children off busy streets during the long summer evenings; in 1938 an average number of some 2,300 children attended the 29 centres then open each week.

In September, 1939, the Committee were forced by war-time conditions to set aside all proposals for maintaining play centres, and it was not until the autumn of 1941, when attention was focused by the Board of Education in their Circular No. 1554 on the growing figures of juvenile delinquents, that attempts were made to resume play centre facilities, four experimental centres being established in schools in the outer suburbs in September, 1941.

In their Circular No. 1573 ("Care of Children of Women War-workers"), the Board of Education and the Ministry of Labour appealed to Education Authorities generally to meet all local demands for the provision of play centre facilities which would keep the school children usefully and healthily occupied, from the closure of afternoon school until mothers who were engaged on war-work were able to return to their homes. No time was lost in implementing the recommendations of the Circular, and between February, 1942, and the present time further centres have been opened.

War-time exigencies have, of course, necessitated the lifting of the pre-war ban which limited admission to play centres to children over 9 years of age, and all the centres now cater for children aged between 5 and 14 years.

Holiday Play Centres.

The Elementary Education Sub-Committee, in May, 1942, decided to establish a scheme which would enable children to meet during the four weeks' summer holiday period in school playgrounds and playing fields (or, in bad weather, in the school buildings) in selected areas of the City. In July, 1942, the Board of Education made a special request to Education Authorities to give immediate consideration to the problem of caring for children during school holidays.

As a result of the Board's request, 67 summer holiday play centres were opened at the beginning of the holiday, and teachers were appointed as games supervisors at the rate of payment of 10s. per occasion of three hours (2-0—5-0 p.m. each week-day, except Saturdays). The centres were under constant supervision by the Committee's Inspectors, and where the number of children in average attendance reached a low figure the staff was reduced or the centre closed. Over 50 play centres remained open for the full four weeks.

During the first week, about 6,000 children attended, the numbers falling by about 1,000 in each of the succeeding three weeks. Although this number is a very small proportion of the school population of Liverpool, it is recognised that the majority of children naturally prefer to make their own holiday plans, prospecting farther afield and amusing themselves in various ways.

Seventeen centres included a creche at each of which two mothers were appointed to supervise the smaller children with the help of older girls. This released a number of the older brothers and sisters to play games themselves.

Teachers' Sports Associations.

The Teachers' Sports Committees of the National Association of Schoolmasters and the National Union of Teachers who, prior to the outbreak of war, organised extensive competitions annually in all the well-known athletic activities (football, cricket, baseball, rounders, dancing and swimming) for the school children "out of school hours," still took every advantage of the limited facilities available. The following is a brief account of progress during 1942:—

“ Owing to war-time difficulties, no league and knock-out competitions were organised by the Sports Committees of the N.U.T. and N.A.S.; yet it is pleasing to report that friendly football, cricket, baseball and rounders matches were played between neighbouring schools, while some schools arranged fixtures with the junior clubs in their own districts.

“ In connection with the Victory Garden Show in aid of the funds of the Red Cross and the Order of St. John, held on Saturday, the 29th August, 1942, a Gymkhana was organised by the Teachers' Sports Committee. The programme included a display of gymnastics and English Folk Dancing by teams of girls from neighbouring schools. 1,390 entrants keenly competed in a varied selection of races and humorous contests, and a Keep-fit and National Dance Display was given by members of the Women's Evening Institutes. A further attraction of the Show was the staging of a Liverpool Elementary Schools Boxing Competition, under the auspices of the Northern Counties A.B.A. Many first-class contests were witnessed by the spectators. During the year a number of boys were trained for the Northern Counties A.B.A. School Championships; 25 Liverpool schoolboys entered, gaining three championships.”

The voluntary work by the teachers in promoting and organising “ after school ” activities in all branches of athletics, games and swimming has been closely followed and thoroughly appreciated by the members and officials of the Education Committee.

ALFRED E. HARRIS,
Inspector of Physical Training.

March, 1943.

